

Lakeside Water District

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January 17, 2002

Renata Hesse, Trial Attorney
Antitrust Division, Department of Justice
601 D Street NW, Ste. 1200
Washington, DC 20530

VIA FACSIMILE
(202) 616-9937

Dear Ms. Hesse:

US v. Microsoft is a complex case which I have spent some time trying to learn about. In situations like these, I often defer to individuals more learned than I. I am writing the courts to ensure you are aware of the opinions of Mr. James DeLong, a senior fellow at the Competitive Enterprise Institute. Mr. DeLong's argument was paraphrased in a recent article in the Orange County Register. I would like to share with the courts some of what he said.

About the settlement, Mr. DeLong stated "Most of all it gets the case done without undue damage". According to Mr. DeLong, this lawsuit made no sense from the beginning. It focused on Microsoft's monopoly as it relates to processors; specifically, by running only on Intel chips. Yet, Macintosh runs on Motorola chips and is gaining market share each month. Mr. DeLong goes on to say that the real issue is the Internet. And, as we all know, Microsoft has nowhere near the Internet dominance of companies like America Online or Yahoo.

The point of all this is—important people like James DeLong not only support the settlement but recognize the absurdity of the case itself. I hope the courts will approve the settlement and end this ridiculous case.

Sincerely,



Frank Hilliker, Board Member
Lakeside Water District